

Message Text

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SUBJECT: ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS AFTER KIM CHONG-PIL'S VISIT.

SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR HAS DISCUSSED KIM CHONG-PIL VISIT TO JAPAN WITH ROKG OFFICIALS AND JAPANESE AMBASSADOR. WHILE JAPANESE AND KOREAN PERCEPTIONS OF VISIT VARY IN DETAIL, BOTH KOREAN AND JAPANESE OFFICIALS IN SEOUL VIEW VISIT AS POSITIVE PLUS IN IMPROVING ROK-GOJ RELATIONS AND IN SETTING STAGE FOR JOINT MINISTERIAL MEETING. BUT MINISTERIAL MEETING NOT REPEAT NOT DEFINITELY SET. END SUMMARY.

1. FROM ROKG SIDE, PRIME MINISTER KIM CHONG-PIL IN BRIEF CONVERSATION CONFIRMED TO AMBASSADOR HIS FAVORABLE IMPRESSION OF RECEPTION GIVEN HIM BY GOJ LEADERSHIP AND OF PROSPECTS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN ROKG-GOJ RELATIONS. AS REPORTED REF A, HE HAS DIRECTED THAT LETTER BE SENT TO GOJ ON KIM TONG-UN AS FURTHER GESTURE ON KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE. FOREIGN MINISTER KIM TONG-CHO CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD BEEN ASKED TO PREPARE TEXT OF LETTER, BUT IS MORE SKEPTICAL THAN PRIMIN OF ITS EFFICACY. BOTH PRIMIN AND SECRET

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FONMIN RETAIN CONCERN, HOWEVER, WITH JAPANESE WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SUPPORT TO ROKG AT PRESENT JUNCTURE.

2. IN MORE EXTENDED CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR,

JAPANESE AMBASSADOR NISHIYAMA REVIEWED RESULTS OF PRIMIN'S VISIT, AS WELL AS HIS OWN TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER MIKI AND FOREIGN MINISTER MIYAZAWA. NISHIYAMA SAID THAT PRIMIN KIM CHONG-PIL HAD THREE BASIC OBJECTIVES DURING HIS VISIT:

- 1) TO AROUSE GREATER JAPANESE CONCERN REGARDING KOREAN SECURITY;
- 2) ARRANGE FOR JOINT MINISTERIAL MEETING;
- 3) URGE JAPANESE TO STOP EXPORTS TO NORTH KOREA OF DEFENSE-RELATED PRODUCTS.

DURING PRELIMINARY TALKS WITH MIKI AND MIYAZAWA, NISHIYAMA PRESSED FOR GOJ RESPONSIVENESS IN ALL THREE AREAS. HE URGED GREATER CONCERN IN JAPAN REGARDING THE LINKAGE BETWEEN JAPANESE AND KOREAN SECURITY, PARTICULARLY TO AVOID PUBLIC CONFUSION IN JAPAN SHOULD CONFLICT BREAK OUT IN KOREA. NISHIYAMA REPORTED THAT, WITH EXCEPTION OF VICE MINISTER TOGO, GOJ LEADERSHIP WAS LARGELY UNRESPONSIVE TO HIS PLEA. GENERAL ATTITUDE WAS ONE OF LITTLE CONCERN WITH KOREA SECURITY AND BASIC ATTITUDE WAS TO LEAVE THIS PROBLEM ENTIRELY FOR US TO HANDLE. NISHIYAMA FOUND JAPANESE BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT MORE CONCERNED WITH HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IN KOREA.

3. NISHIYAMA'S MAJOR FOCUS WAS ON MINISTERIAL MEETING. MIYAZAWA WAS SYMPATHETIC WITH DESIRE TO HOLDING MINISTERIAL MEETING EARLY THIS SUMMER BEFORE MIKI'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON, BUT TOLD NISHIYAMA THAT DECISION WAS ENTIRELY UP TO MIKI, WHO WANTED TO DELAY MEETING UNTIL SEPTEMBER. NISHIYAMA STATED THAT HE TOOK A VERY TOUGH LINE WITH MIKI DURING PRIVATE CONVERSATION AND PRESSED HIM VERY HARD FOR PRE-WASHINGTON VISIT MINISTERIAL MEETING. HE POINTED OUT TO MIKI THAT MINISTERIAL MEETING HAD IN FACT BEEN AGREED TO AFTER PRIMIN KIM CHONG-PIL'S 1973 TRIP TO APOLOGIZE FOR KIM TAE-CHUNG AFFAIR. MIKI NEVER EXPLAINED TO NISHIYAMA REASON FOR SECRET

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SEPTEMBER DATE AND FINALLY TENTATIVELY AGREED TO MINISTERIAL MEETING AFTER DIT ADJOURNS, IF THERE IS ADEQUATE TIME BETWEEN ADJOURNMENT AND WASHINGTON TRIP. NISHIYAMA CLAIMED THAT NEITHER IN HIS CONVERSATIONS NOR THOSE OF KIM CHONG-PIL WAS THERE ANY DIRECT LINK BETWEEN MINISTERIAL MEETING AND ROKG GESTURE ON KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE. BUT HE ACKNOWLEDGED THERE STILL COULD BE LINKAGE AND ROKG GESTURE STILL DESIRABLE.

4. NISHIYAMA SAID KIM CHONG-PIL'S TALKS WITH MIKI AND MIYAZAWA WENT VERY WELL AND CONFIRMED THAT BOTH JAPANESE LEADERS WERE FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY KIM CHONG-PIL PERSONALLY. KIM CHONG-PIL STRESSED NORTH KOREAN THREAT, PARTICULARLY

AS REASON FOR INTERNAL KOREAN ACTIONS. HE POINTED OUT, WITH RESPECT TO KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE, THAT HUNDRED PER CENT SATISFACTION FOR BOTH SIDES WAS IMPOSSIBLE, BUT HE WOULD TRY HIS BEST TO PROVIDE SOME PARTIAL SATISFACTION TO GOJ. HE DID NOT GET INTO SPECIFICS OR NATURE OF ROKG GESTURE. KIM CHONG-PIL MEETING WITH MIKI WAS NOT AS LONG AS HOPED FOR DUE TO OTHER COMMITMENTS, BUT MIKI LISTENED ATTENTIVELY TO KIM CHONG-PIL WITHOUT REACTING, HOWEVER.

5. HISHIYAMA MADE ONE FINAL SUGGESTION. GIVEN MIYAZAWA'S RELATIVE LACK OF CONCERN REGARDING KOREAN SECURITY, HE URGED THAT THE SECRETARY DISCUSS THIS PROBLEM WITH MIYAZAWA DURING FORTHCOMING MEETING IN COURSE OF OECD MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE IN PARIS.

6. COMMENT: AS USUAL, JAPANESE AND KOREAN PERCEPTIONS OF RESULTS BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS TEND TO VARY. HOWEVER OUR IMPRESSION FROM SEOUL IS THAT THE TWO SIDES ARE NOT TOO FAR APART ON SCHEDULING A MINISTERIAL MEETING AND COULD USEFULLY BE NUDGED IN THIS DIRECTION BY US. ON OTHER HAND GAP ON SECURITY PERCEPTIONS REMAINS WIDER, WITH ROKG OVERSTATING NORTH KOREAN THREAT WHILE JAPANESE CONTINUE TENDENCY TO DUCK RESPONSIBILITIES IN SECURITY AREA, AS NISHIYAMA SAYS, EVEN TO POINT OF FAILING TO EDUCATE JAPANESE PUBLIC ON NEED FOR US BASES IN JAPAN TO SUPPORT DETERRENCE IN KOREA.
SNEIDER

SECRET

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